



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TANNING SALON OWNER PLEADS GUILTY TO METH CHARGES

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that the owner of a Springfield, Mo., tanning salon pleaded guilty in federal court today to possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine.

Leah Renee Binney, 43, of Springfield, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr this morning to possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine.

By pleading guilty, **Binney** admitted that she possessed with intent to distribute at least 50 grams but less than 150 grams of methamphetamine (actual) on Dec. 16, 2003, in Greene County, Mo. **Binney** also agreed to forfeit any proceeds derived as a result of the narcotics violation, including \$8,174.

Binney was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Jan. 26, 2004, in Springfield.

Under federal statutes, Graves explained, **Binney** may be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in federal prison without parole, up to life in prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$4 million. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Kimberly R. Weber Dean. It was investigated by the Springfield, Mo., Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow